

"That Other Promise: Take Heed"

Scripture: Matthew 24:3-28

(Illustration of importance of father's)

Someone has said, "Any father who thinks he's all important should remind himself that his country honors fathers only one day a year, while pickles get a whole week."

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, His disciples wanted to know what would the signs of His return would be and when the end of the world would take place. Matthew writes, "And Jesus answered and said unto them, 'Take heed,'" verse 4A.

That almost sounds like a TV commercial doesn't it? "Got a headache?, take two Heed tablets and call your doctor in the morning." That of course, wasn't what Jesus was saying, and we should add the rest of that verse because of its importance. He said, "Take heed that no man deceive you." He was aware that as time went on deception would come from many different directions.

(Illustration of boys in Biology class trying to deceive the professor)

In a biology class a group of boys took different bugs and from each of those bugs they took a part. Assembling these parts together they had what looked like a rare and unique bug. They then took this "bug" to the professor for him to identify. The professor looked at the bug for a long time and finally he said, "Boys, I think this is a humbug."

There are these kinds of deception which basically just seek to pull a prank or joke. But Jesus wasn't talking about this kind of deception. He was talking about people who would come along and follow everything happening in the world and then set a time or date on the appearance of Jesus into the world again. And He was also talking about those who would wait for His coming and when it didn't happen, to lull people into a sense of security. This is a summation of where we are in our world today. There are those who are seeing the events of the world and forming groups to follow them and setting dates on His return. Then there are those who are saying, "2000 years have gone by and He still hasn't returned and I don't think He will. All of us will just live a normal amount of years and then die and after we're dead people will still be talking about His coming for the Church." In both instances the arch-deceiver is at work. Jesus knew this better than anyone else because He had been tempted by Satan at the very beginning of His earthly ministry. It was one of Jesus' disciples hearing what Jesus was saying about "Taking Heed," who wrote to the first-century church, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour," 1 Peter 5:8.

Notice, Peter says, "Be sober, be vigilant." The word vigilant ~~is~~ has the same meaning as the words, "watch" and "Heed" had in Jesus' conversatin.

Now Biblical scholars are divided on these verses we are using this morning as to the actual time period involved. There are those who say ~~this~~ this Scripture pertains to the period of the Tribulation. Then there are those who say these events precede the Tribulation. I believe these events precede the Tribulation, but will be intensified during the Tribulation. Let's look at some of these verses to see what Jesus was saying. First, Jesus tells of the coming of false Christs, verse 5 - (read). Sometime back in the eighties a full page ad appeared in the New York Times stating that the Messiah had arrived and was living in New York city. There have been others who have laid claim to being the promised one of God. There

are others who have not laid claim to Messiahship but have been acclaimed by other people as the Messiah. One of those on the scene today is the Head Red Gorbachev. People have actually called him "the Savior of the World."

Then Jesus said, verses 6 and 7, (read). Notice, at the end of verse 6 He says, "but the end is not yet."

He is saying that these events will be leading up to the end. We can see that even though ~~xxx~~ the major powers are at peace, there are small wars taking place right now in various parts of the world. Jesus said there would be "famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places." Earthquakes in recent days have been recorded in places where there were never earthquakes before. Remember last year there was a small one right here in Butler? A so called "world expert" about life on this planet came out just recently and said that the thing which would end the human race was not nuclear bombs, but famine since we cannot feed all of the population of the world right now. He said it would get progressively worse. Jesus said, "All these are the beginning of sorrows," verse 8.

Then He says, (read verses 9-11. But the conditions will be such that the faith of people will be severely tried because He says, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold," verse 12.

Sin is abounding today as never before. Punishment for those convicted even of heinous crimes is sorely lacking and so much so that people are questioning how things could possibly get much worse. And many of those are shrugging and saying, "What's the use, if you can't beat em, join em?" But we are to stand firm in the faith for our Lord said, "But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved," verse 13.

Another sign of the coming end is, (read verse 14). The Gospel has not yet been preached to all the world, but it is getting closer every year. Bible translators are producing new translations every year.

Then Jesus goes into some other details of the end times which partially pertain to the Jews about the Temple and the Sabbath. His summation is, (read verses 21 & 22). Jesus is saying that as believers live through these end time days and things keep going from bad to worse, all mankind would ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ lose out on salvation, but God won't permit that because of ~~xx~~ those who are His. He will step into history at that point and His Church will be taken out of this present world.

As we see things escalating in sin, and violence, and bloodshed we wonder where it all will end. As believers we know that God will intervene into history and at the appointed time God will take His Church and His people out of the world scene. What should be our stance? Jesus said, "Take Heed." That word "Heed" is interesting to me since it was one of the first Greek words I had to learn in seminary. In Greek the word is "BLEPO". We had a lot of fun with the word. Someone would explain something to us and we would answer, "Oh, I Blepo," meaning "I see." Jesus is saying to look at events taking place, See those events for what they are. But does this mean we divorce ourselves from the living of this life and say, "Oh well, it's all going to end soon. So why not live it up and eat, drink, and be merry." We must live in this world and live through whatever ~~xxxxx~~ comes along, but we must be about our lives until God calls us home in whatever way He will.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
Butler, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor June 17, 1990

Mr. Robert Weisenstein, Liturgist

Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music

Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist

Acolytes: Wesley Miller and Jimmy Shearer

\*\*\*\*\*  
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Announcements

Congregational Greeting

Joys

Prayer Requests

\*Opening Hymn No. 123 "When We All Get to Heaven"

Ascription

\*Call to Worship:

Pastor - Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth  
rejoice

People - Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,  
And into His courts with praise.

Pastor - Seek ye the Lord while He may be found,  
Call upon Him while He is near.

Invocation: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, by whose  
will and blessings we have been permitted to worship in  
this house; we gratefully give you thanks for the years  
this congregation has remained at this site. For worship,  
preaching, teaching, and the ministry of comfort in the  
name of Jesus Christ, for which this church and people  
have existed, we praise You. May our worship this day  
reflect our thanksgiving, and all future worship be worthy  
of Your Most Holy Name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Praise: Leader - Blessed be the Lord God

People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.

\*Gloria Patri - page 142

Children's Moment

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You

People - And with Thy Spirit

Pastor - Let us pray.

Morning Prayer

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Doxology - page 382

Rededication of the Church Building

Hymn No. "It Will Be Worth It All"

Scripture: Matthew 24: 3-28

Sermon: "That Other Promise: Take Heed"

\*Invitational Hymn No. 128 "Face to Face"

\*Benediction

\*Closing Chimes

\*Postlude

\*\*\*\*\* \*Congregation Standing \*\*\*\*\*

The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by  
Ruth Davies in memory of Loved Ones.

Mrs. Emogene Massey will greet our members and guests at  
the door this morning.

Ushering today are Kris Pedersen, Mike Kay, Anna Gonzalez,  
and Lori Weisenstein.

Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Shirley Link.

Attendance last Sunday was 106 with 9 visitors.

Rick Vinroe and Art Snyder will be visiting the hospital  
this week.

> Hospitalized: Mrs. Mary Sherman and Walter Hollefreund  
in BMH. Mid Diefenderfer in Alleg. General  
Van Driver for next Sunday will be Dick Mangel.

> VBS begins on Monday at 6:30 to 9 P.M. All teachers are to  
be there at 6:00 P.M. and ready. Openings will be held  
in the Sanctuary. Please come, one and all. Classes for  
all ages: yes, even the Adults!!!

> JULY 15th - a very important congregational meeting will be  
held immediately following the service in Rehoboth Hall.

We need all of you there, so please be in attendance.

> JUNE 24th - PICNIC & WORSHIP IN THE PARK will be held at  
11:00 A.M. Come with a picnic basket filled with food  
and a table service. Dress casually and be prepared to  
participate in the fun activities of the day. Bring a  
ball glove and maybe we will play softball or volleyball.  
Lay Life and Work Committee will be hosting this day.  
Meat, dessert and beverages are provided.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to  
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your  
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept  
Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling.  
The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist  
you if you desire.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH - SAGAMORE, PA. - MAY 17, 1997

PRELUDE  
GREETINGS/JOYS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS  
FAMILY DAY DINNER - JUNE 8, AFTER CHURCH  
VBS JUNE 16-21, ADULT CLASS - 6:30 - 8:30

REV. VERNON BORCHERT NEXT SUNDAY  
FLOWERS - SARAH TOST FUNERAL  
JUNE 7, 6:30 - FAMILY DINNER

HYMN  
PRAYER/OFFERING  
\*DOXOLOGY  
PASTORAL PRAYER  
HYMN  
SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 24:3-28  
ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 6/17/90  
\*HYMN  
\*BENEDICTION  
\*POSTLUDE

TOST FAMILY  
PAULINE  
MARINA  
TONY  
JANET  
BILL

SCRIP: MT 24:3-28; SERM: "THAT OTHER PROMISE? TAKE HEED"  
(ILUS CATHEDRAL IN MILAN, ITALY & THREE DOORS)  
THINGS OF ETERNAL VALU WAS WAT DICIPS WER THINK OF THIS SCRIP  
EVENT TUK PLACE ON TUES OR WEDS OF HOLY WEEK AD 30  
JS SIT W/DISCIPS ON MT OLIVES & THEY QUESTIN .....  
VS 3=WHEN WIL THEZ HAPN WEN U WIL CUM BAK??  
VS 4=FOUND LIK TV COMERCIL - GOT HEDACHE & TAK 2HEED,CAL DR MORN  
DECEIV U=JS AWAR DEPETIN WUD CUM FR/MANY DIF DIRECTINS  
(ILUS BOYS IN BIOLOGY CLASS, MAK BUG & PROF CAL "HUMBUG")  
DECEPTIN LIK THIS WAS NOT WAT JS WAS TALK BOUT - THIS PRANK  
VS 5=THIS WAT JS GET AT - FALS CLAIMS/FALS XP'IS  
EXAMPL=CH IN FALS SENSSECURTY - JS NO CUM,WONT CUM,ETC  
THIS SATAN  
PETER 1ST LETTER 5:8 - VIIGILNT SAME AS "WATCH,HEED"  
NEX VSS BIB SCHOLARS DIVIDE ON SUM THINK DURING TRIB,OTHS  
PRE-TRIB & THIS WAT MOS BLIEV  
VS 5=NY TIMES FUL PAGE AD 1980  
GORBYCHEV AS SAVIOR OF TH/WORLD & HE WAS CAL THAT BY SOME  
VSS 6-7=END NOT YET, THEZ THING MUS TAK PLACE  
FAMINE=PREDIC OF SCIENTISTS  
PESTILENC= AIDS, RETURN PLAGUES, TB, POLIO, ETC.  
ERTHQUAKS=IRAN LAS WK, CHINA, PLACES NEVR BIN B4  
VS 8=ONLY TH/START  
VSS 9-11=FAITH OF PEO TRIED - PERSECUTIN OF XPIANS NOW TAK PLACE  
VS 12=BCDRLINE XPIANS TURN FR/CHRIST & GOD  
VS 13=CANNOT B OVRUM BY EVIL RND US & IN WORL  
JUDICIL SYSTEM RUN AMOK,  
WE R TO STAN FAST  
VS 14=BIBL TRANSLATINS  
VSS 21-22=THIS IS SUMATIN  
EXPLAIN G STEP IN & SHORTN TIME TO SAV TH/ELECT  
WA HUDB OUR STANC???  
TAK HEED - IN GR=BLEPO --- I SEE  
(ILUS DR. STOWELL, LIF THRET, & DAUGHTR'S REMARK TO HIM)  
PAUL HANDLES THIS THOT IN ROMANS 14:7-9 - READ VERSES

AS WE LONG 2BLONG TO TH/LORD IT NO MATTR WHETHR JS APEAR  
 2DAY, 2MORRO, OR 2THOUSAN YRS FR/NOW  
IF WE R HIS, WER HIS IN LIF & IN DETH  
 DR. STOWELL'S DOTTIR HAD RITE IDEA  
 WEN WE PART FR/EACH OTHR WE NEED TO SAY,  
"I'LL SEE YOU IN HVN" INSTED SO LONG, OR GUDBYE  
 CAN I SAY THAT THIS MORN & TRULY MEAN IT???  
 DO U KNO WEN CLOS UR EYES THIS LIF U WIL AWAKN IN HVN????  
 WE CAN MAK THIS A REALTY IF HAVNT DUN SO  
 CUM TO TH/SAV TODAY & CAST UR LIF UPON HIM  
THEN KNO FOR CERTINTY NO ONE, NOR NUTHIN CAN SEPRAT U FROM  
ALMITY GOD  
U R HIS NOW & FOREVER  
 BUT IN TH/MEANTIME WE MUS "TAKE HEED"

(Ilus self-importanc of fathers)  
 ANY FATHR WHO THINS HE'S ALL IMPORTNT SHUD REMIN HIMSELF THAT  
 HIS COUNTRY HONORS FATHER'S ONLY ONE DAY A YR, WHIL PICKLES GET  
 A WHOL WK = CAL. PACIF-RRD. MEMENT D16.517 6/77  
 Vs 4=snds lik TV comercil -GOT HEDACHE? TAK 2HEED & CAL DR MORN  
 Vs 4=completly  
 (I ) boys biol clas & Humbug)  
 C/P deceptin & satn's wiles  
 1 Petr 5:8 - READ  
 Virilnt=eam as Watch Tak Heed  
 C/P Bib scholrs & trib-pre-trib bout this Scrip  
 vs 5=NY Times ad in 80's  
 Gorby  
 vss 6-7=End not yet  
 wars;erthquaks-Butler;famin as end of world  
 vs 8=This Bgin of sorrows  
 vss 9-11=faith of pec tryd  
 vs 12=lurv of many wax cold  
 sin lik nevr B4-crim/punishmen  
 vs 13=we R 2stan fas  
 vs 14=Bibl trans  
~~xxxxRkx22x~~Jews-Templ & Sab  
 Sumatin=Vss 21-22  
 wat shudB our stanc?  
 Gr=HEED - BLEPO - I See  
 (Ilus Dr. Jos Stowell, deth thret, dottir say=I'll C U In Hvn DAD)  
~~xxxxM~~ Rom 14:7-9  
 Can U say that this morn & mean it?  
 do U kno wen U clos Ur eys this lif U wil awakn in hvn?  
 U can mak realty if havnt dun so  
 Cu Sav 2day & cast Ur lif upon Him  
 then kno 4certnty nuth can seprat U fr/G  
 U R His now & 4evr - TAK HEED

"That Other Promise: Take Heed"

Scripture: Matthew 24:3-28

(Ilus of importanc of fathr's) - P's Day lnce yr-pickls whol wk  
As Js sit Mt Oliv discipz want kno wat wudB sign return & end  
world

Mt writ - vs 4A

almos soun lik comercul duznt it? - Got hedache? Tak 2Heed  
slets & cal Ur doctr in th/morn

that of cors wasnt wat Js was say & shud add res of vs=vs 4  
this import,Bcuz Js awar as tim went on deceptin wud tak plac &  
cum fr/many dif directins

(Ilus biol clas & boys "mak bug" & prof cal it =Humbug)

Ther R thez kinds decep seek pul prank/kok,but Js no talk bout  
this kind decep

He talk bout peo wud cum long & lk events worl set dat/tim of  
Js apcar in2 worl agin

& He also talk bout thoz who wud wait 4 His cum & wen no hapn,  
lul peo in2 fals sens securty

this is sumatin of wher we R in worl 2day

Ther R thoz who C events of worl & form grps 2felo them & set  
dates & times 4 His cum return

then ther thoz who say=2M yrs pas & He no cum yet,so dont think  
He wil;we wil all liv amt yrs,dy,& aftr ded peo wil stil B talk

bout His return 4 His Ch

in both instance th/arch-deceivr is at work

Js knu this bettr than mos Bcuz He was temptd of him at Bgin min  
it was one discip Js herd Him talk-Tak Heed who wrot 2 1st cen

Ch- 1 Peter 5:8 - READ

Notic-Petr say=B sobr,B vigilant & "vig" has sam mean of Watch,  
& Heed in Js conversatin

Now Bib scholrs divid on mean of vss Scrip this morn

thoz say aply Trib

liev as othrs thez aply 2 pre-trib \_ wat Js say wilB intens-  
fy during th/Trib

vs 5=Js tel of cum of fals Xp'ts - (Ex=Ad NY Times in 80's Mesiah)

Ther othrs who made claim & wil do so - Gorbachev & Sav of worl  
vss 6-7=Notic.He say-End is not yet

He say thez events wil lead up 2end

evn tho majr powrs R at peac-smal wars all ovr glob

Erthquaks=many places wh/nevr bin B4 - evn in Butlr las yr

famines=show one exper sed worl wud end insted nuclear

Js sed wud get progresivly wors=Lk tornados,droughts,flash fluds,  
& recogniz truth of this

Js sed=Vs 8-Bgin of sorrows

Vss 9-11conditins wilB such that faith of peo wilB sevrly tried

& so He sez=Vs 12

sin is abound as nevr B4

punishmen 4 thoz convic of heinus crimes is sorly laking

so peo questin "how cud get an wors?"

Ther4 many say="If U cant beat em,join-em & turn fr/rite liv 2/  
but Js say=Vs 13

nothr sign His cum is=Vs 14

Gospl no preach 2all worl,but ea yr get closr

Bibl transltrs R produc new trans evry yr

Js then go in2 details bout things pertain 2 th/Jews Templ & Saba

H' sumatin is=Vss 21-22

say as Blievrs liv thru thez end-tim days & things go fr/bad

2wors,all mank wud los out on salv,but G wont permit that Bcuz

of thoz who R His

He wil step in2 histry & tak Ch out of presen worl

As we C sin,violenc,bludshed escalat we wondr wher all wil end  
wat shudB our stanc?

Js sed=Tak Heed

word Heed is intrest 2me Bcuz one of 1st Gr words lernd in Sem

in Gr it is BLEPO & we had fun w/word

sumone tel us sumth in expl & we ansr=I BLEPO - I see!

Js is say lk at evens tak plac & C thoz evens 4wat they R

but duz this mean we divorc selvs fr/liv this lif & say=Ch wel,

it all go 2end soon,so why not liv it up=eat,drink,B merry

we mus liv in this worl & liv thru watevr cum along

bUt we musB bout our livs until G cals us hom in watevr way

He wil

(Ilus Dr. Jos Stowell,lif thret & dottr gudby=C U In HVN)

I lik how P handl that thot=READ Rom 14:7-9

as long as we Blong 2 th/L it mattrs not whthr Js apcars 2day,

2morrow,or nothr 2M yrs fr/nw

If we R His, we R His in lif & in deth

Dr. Stowell's dottr had rt idea,

wen we seprat fr/ea othr,we need 2say=I'll C U In Hvn,insted of  
so long or gudby

Can U say this,this morn & truly mean it?

U kno wen U clos Ur eyes in this lif U wil awakn in hvn?

We can mak this a realty if we havnt yet dun so

Sum 2 th/Sav 2day & cast Ur lif upon Him

then kno 4 a certnty that nuth can sprat U fr/Almity G

U R His now & 4evr, Tak Heed



Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife  
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link  
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)











Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ



## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.